



## Fact Sheet:



# Facts and Figures On Alcohol and Other Drugs

- Alcohol is a drug.
- Alcohol and other drug abuse is a major factor in chronic disease, the spread of infectious diseases, hospital emergency room visits, newborn health problems, violence and auto fatalities.
- An estimated 1.0 million adults in California are chronic drinkers (drinking 60 or more drinks per month).
- An estimated 1.9 million Californians 12 years and older are currently using illicit drugs.
- Fetal alcohol syndrome, caused by drinking during pregnancy, the NUMBER ONE cause of preventable mental retardation and birth defects in the United States.

### ***Economic Impact***

- In California, the estimated cost of alcohol and other drug abuse to society is \$32.0 billion. This estimate takes into consideration loss of productivity, health care costs, prevention and treatment costs, criminal justice costs, and losses due to crime.
    - Drug Abuse-about \$12.8 billion annually
    - Alcohol Abuse-about \$19.2 billion annually
- Source: The Economic Cost of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the U.S., 1992. National Institute on Drug Abuse & National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

### ***Deaths***

- Alcohol and other drug use killed approximately 5,800 Californians in 1998.
    - 3,350 Alcohol-related
    - 2,453 Drug-related
- Source: California Department of Health Services, 1998

### ***Traffic Accidents in California***

- In 1998, there were 20,711 traffic collisions which involved alcohol.
    - 1,072 people died
    - 30,985 people were injured
- Source: Department of California Highway Patrol, 1998

### ***Arrests***

- Approximately 39% of all arrests in California were drug/alcohol related. Over 614,000 Californians were arrested on drug- and alcohol-related charges in 1998.
    - 349,076 Alcohol-related
    - 264,964 Drug-related
- Source: California Department of Justice, 1998

### ***Treatment Demographics***

- Primary Drug Problem

About 151,000 people a year are admitted to state treatment programs with a primary drug problem. "State treatment programs" refer to those programs receiving federal or state funds, or are licensed by the

Department to operate a narcotic replacement treatment program.

### **Primary Drug Used**

Heroin	48.2%
Cocaine/Crack	15.1%
Amphetamines	23.4%
Marijuana/Hashish	10.5%
PCP	0.6%
Other	2.2%

### **Sex and Race/Ethnicity of Those Treated**

	<u>Drug Trmt</u>	<u>1990 CA Pop</u>
Male	61.6%	50.1%
Female	38.4%	49.9%
White	48.0%	57.2%
Hispanic	27.7%	25.8%
African Amer	18.3%	7.0%
Asian/P.I.	2.1%	9.1%
Amer Indian	1.5%	0.6%
Other Race	2.4%	0.2%

#### ○ Primary Alcohol Problem

Each year, approximately 50,800 people enter state treatment programs with a primary alcohol problem. "State treatment programs" refer to those people receiving federal or state alcohol funds. Private care facilities are not included in these statistics.

Another 210,000 participated in Driving-Under-The-Influence programs.

### **Sex and Race/Ethnicity of Those Treated**

	<u>Alcohol Trmt Participants</u>	<u>General Population</u>	<u>DUI Pgm Participants*</u>
Male	68.9%	50.1%	79.1%
Female	31.1%	49.9%	13.1%
White	54.8%	57.2%	45.9%
Hispanic	20.8%	25.8%	33.7%
African Amer	18.7%	7.0%	6.0%
Asian/PI	1.7%	9.1%	2.9%
Amer Ind	2.1%	0.6%	1.1%
Other race	1.9%	0.2%	1.6%

\* totals do not sum to 100% due to unknown values

Source: California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, 1998 and 1999